

Montana Department of Military Affairs  
**Disaster & Emergency Services Division**  
**State Emergency Coordination Center**

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**Situation Report for July 22, 2007** (issued @ 1500 hrs.)

**07 FIRES**

**I. - Background Information**

- Since June, hot and dry weather has dominated the region creating very high to extreme fire conditions. Fire Indices are at an all time high while fuel moistures are low. Accompanying the high indices are weather patterns that have set the conditions for lightning and lightning caused starts. High pressure weather patterns over the region are responsible for the high temperatures and little to no moisture. Occasional cold fronts push through the region causing severe lightning storms that ignite wildfires. Rain has accompanied these fronts but a return to a high pressure system mitigates any moisture that fell. The weather forecast projects a continuing of the high pressure systems through August and possible into September.

**II. - Current Incident Situation**

**Little Wolf, Ahorn, Novak Fires are being managed by Bennett's Type I team**

- **Little Wolf Fire** in the Wolf Creek drainage grew to 570 acres. Lewis and Clark County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated. Little Wolf is 30% contained and is threatening 20 structures. Evacuation orders were lifted this morning at 0800 hours. Cause: Lightning
- **Ahorn Fire** on the Lewis and Clark National Forest in Lewis and Clark County is at 7,270 acres. 0% Containment. Completed wrapping structures at Gibson Reservoir. Cause: Lightning.
- **Novak**, in Lewis and Clark County in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, is at 617 acres. Novak is 0% contained and is threatening 10 structures. Cause: Lightning

**Fool Creek** on the Lewis and Clark and Flathead National Forests in Lewis and Clark County is at 6,214 acres. Percent contained is unknown. Transfer from Svalberg's Fire Use Management Team to Reinarz's Fire Use Management Team occurred yesterday evening. Cause: Lightning

**Pattengail Creek** on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF. 10 miles NE of Wisdom. 3,380 Acres and 33% contained. Secrest's Type 2 team. No structures threatened.

**NEW LARGE FIRES**

**Rugby** on the Lewis and Clark NF is 12 miles west of Neihart. 15 structures are threatened. 180

acres with 0% containment. Planned actions include develop anchor point, structure protection and long range appropriate management response plan. Type 3 IC. Cause: Lightning

**Walk In** on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. 8 miles northwest of Ashland is 110 acres with 40% containment. Cause: Lightning

**Fargo Coulee** on the Lewistown Resource Area of the BLM is 100 acres with 100% containment. Type 3 IC. No structures are threatened.

### III. Weather

#### **No RED FLAG WARNINGS or Watches issued for July 22, 2007**

Another week of hot temperatures with scattered thunderstorms expected Monday and Tuesday.

#### **Discussion...**

An upper level ridge of high pressure will rebuild over Montana today...allowing for a dry and hot afternoon over the region. Several upper level disturbances will move through the region Monday and Tuesday, allowing for scattered thunderstorms to develop. A few storms could be severe on Monday, along with producing isolated pockets of heavy rainfall; while nearby areas receive very little precipitation. Expect hot temperatures for Wednesday through Friday...with only a slight chance of thunderstorms.

### IV. State Declarations

- Statewide Declaration of a Wildland Fire Emergency

### V. Local and Tribal Declarations

- **State of Emergency.** The following counties have declared a state of emergency:

Lewis and Clark	Ravalli
Lake	Granite
Cascade	Missoula
Beaverhead	

- **Disaster Declaration.** The following counties have declared a disaster:

Teton

### VI. - Requests for State Financial Assistance

- N/A

### VII. - Summary of State Resources Committed

- One Montana Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk module is deployed for initial attack. The Blackhawk and its module is staged in Helena.
- One UH-60 Blackhawk and module has been ordered by NRCC for deployment in Missoula for Initial attack starting 7/26/07

- July 20, 2007 at 0700 the SECC was activated to a Level III status With extended hours (0700-1900) The MT DES staff Duty Officer is available 24 hrs and may be reached at (406) 841-3911.
- The Lewis and Clark County Emergency Operation Center was activated on July 19, 2007.